

**Alliance Point 16:** Enhance and facilitate exchange of information and evidence to prosecute and convict criminals and deter drug trafficking; and ensure the security and appropriate use of information and evidence provided.

ACTION	BASELINE As of 1 Feb 98	TARGET	MEASUREMENT	STATUS As of 31 Aug 99
<p>16.1. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will strengthen mechanisms for exchange of information, witnesses, and evidence as expeditiously as possible. Expedite the sharing and exchange of law enforcement information regarding investigations against drug trafficking, streamlining the established channels. The countries will increase the use of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in force between the two countries to obtain evidence.</p>	<p>Frequent exchanges have taken place through a variety of channels, both through the MLAT and working level contacts already identified.</p>	<p>Improved implementation of MLAT, as well as effective use of informal channels for sharing information.</p> <p>Improved and timely access to financial transaction records through MLAT.</p>	<p>Number of MLAT matters in which evidence and information is provided by the requested party.</p> <p>Improvement in quality and quantity of exchanges through established channels such as DEA/FBI to FEADS, IAC to CENDRO.</p> <p>Evaluation of number and timeliness exchanges of financial transaction records through MLAT.</p>	<p>Communication between central authorities has been intensified, and the number of responses has increased.</p> <p>Exchange of financial information based on MLAT has increased.</p> <p>A continuous relationship is maintained between the two governments, giving way to a fluent exchange.</p>



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<p>16.2. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will exchange, by applications filed in accordance with the MLAT, information, witness appearances, and any other evidence deemed necessary or useful in a proceeding. An effort will be made to provide the information requested within a reasonable time frame, based on the nature of the information sought and other factors.</p>	<p>Although the exchanges are taking place, it is necessary to specifically determine the priority cases as well as a timeframe.</p> <p>Applications for information exchanges are made and evidence and testimony are provided under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.</p>	<p>Continuous, timely and efficient use of the MLAT</p> <p>Create the process of appropriately determining priorities in the Treaty requests and in the accomplishment of timeframes set forth in the Treaty assistance requests.</p>	<p>Number of MLAT cases filed, partially executed, and fully executed.</p> <p>Improved efficiency, effectiveness, adequacy, and timeliness of requests made and responses provided under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.</p>	<p>Both governments apply the Treaty on a day-to-day basis, which has increased the number of timely and efficient responses in compliance with it.</p> <p>The timeframes for the information requested are established in the legal assistance request.</p> <p>In urgent cases, an immediate communication is established with central authorities.</p> <p>The treaty has been applied in all requests formulated since March 1998.</p> <p>Both governments utilize similar forms for legal assistance requests.</p>



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<p>16.3. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will establish a mechanism to review the status of various applications under the MLAT.</p> <p>Both governments will regularly exchange reports on priority assistance actions.</p>	<p>Although there are frequent informal consultations, there is no formal reporting program on the status of MLAT requests.</p> <p>As requested, both governments regularly exchange reports on assistance actions in priority cases.</p>	<p>Meetings four to six times per year of the responsible working groups to review the status of different applications submitted under the MLAT.</p> <p>Periodic (bi-monthly) reports on issues established by the requesting party as priority.</p>	<p>Number of meetings of the Working Group on Fugitives and Legal Affairs.</p> <p>Regularity in information provided, efficiency of the mechanism to review the status of applications under the treaty.</p>	<p>Meetings were held within the framework of the Senior Law Enforcement Plenary and the HLCG.</p> <p>During bi-lateral meetings, information on priority cases is exchanged, pursuant to the Working Group meeting held in March 1999.</p>



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16.4. Wherever possible, the Governments of Mexico and the United States will take fullest advantage of the shared information and evidence.	Both governments are taking fullest advantage of the shared information and evidence.	Continuous and efficient exchange of information and evidence; continue granting confidentiality in all cases upon request.	<p>Fullest permissible use of shared evidence in criminal proceedings.</p> <p>Maintain the confidentiality in all cases where it is requested.</p>	<p>Evidence shared with U.S. by Mexico utilized in U.S. investigations.</p> <p>Evidence obtained has been utilized for investigations or legal procedures, in compliance with the confidentiality requirement.</p>